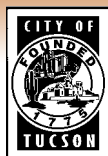


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Destinations

Tucson Department
of Transportation
Bringing Life To Transportation

Vol. 2: No. 5

The latest information from the Tucson Department of Transportation

Fall 2005

www.dot.tucsonaz.gov

Back to Basics Projects Help Strengthen Neighborhoods

Our transportation system plays an important role in creating strong, healthy neighborhoods. Adequate street lighting, pedestrian facilities and traffic control devices make it easier for neighbors to come together and enhance the life of the community. This fall, TDOT is helping improve six City neighborhoods with new projects valued at more than \$1.5 million. The neighborhoods were awarded grant money for the improvements through the Tucson Mayor and City Council's Back to Basics Program.

Balboa Heights

Residents of Balboa Heights will soon enjoy new sidewalks, driveways and street lighting in their neighborhood, which lies between Grant Road, Glenn Street, Oracle Road and Stone Avenue. The project will be complete in January 2006.

El Rio Acres Neighborhood

This project will add new streetlights, speed humps and bus stops within the El Rio Acres neighborhood, which is bounded by Grant Road, Speedway Blvd., I-10, and Silvercroat Wash. The project also features the

construction of a multi-use path and improvements to Parks and Recreation facilities within the neighborhood.

Academy Lofts

A Back to Basics grant is enhancing the Academy Lofts residential development - a historic building at the corner of 15th Street and South 6th Avenue that's being renovated into 36 loft-style apartments. The grant will finance the addition of sidewalks and four historic Armory Park light poles in front of the building.

Continued inside...



TDOT is building new sidewalks on Jacinto Street, in the Balboa Heights neighborhood, with the help of a Back to Basics grant.

Recent Improvement Projects

WESTSIDE	EASTSIDE	CENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTH
Anklam Road Players Club Drive to Greasewood Road	Udall Park Sun Tran Rest Area and new west entrance to Senior Center	Tucson Boulevard Ft. Lowell Road to Prince Road and Speedway Boulevard to Grant Road	Irvington Road Pantano Road to Harrison Road	Drexel Road Calle Santa Cruz to Tucson Boulevard
widening, curbs and sidewalks	The Sun Tran Rest Area is engineered to allow expansion to a full transit center when funding becomes available	overlay and resurfacing	road repaving	overlay and resurfacing
<i>Begins January 2006</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed September 2005</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed September 2005</i>

Back to Basics Projects... (continued from front page)

Maxwell Middle School HAWK Crossing

Students at Maxwell Middle School will soon have a safer walk to school. In January, a HAWK pedestrian signal will be installed near the school at the intersection of Anklam and Shannon roads. The project, which is funded by a Back to Basics grant, is part of the upcoming Anklam Road Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

Wingspan and Pie Allen Neighborhood

The nonprofit organization Wingspan and the Pie Allen Neighborhood Association worked together to secure a Back to Basics grant for additional streetlights. The six new lights will be installed on 7th and 8th Streets between 3rd and 4th Avenues. A

second phase of the project will add more streetlights to the area to enhance pedestrian safety.

Carson Corners Neighborhood

A Back to Basics grant is paying for new street lighting along Prudence Road in the Carson Corners Neighborhood, located between Golf Links, Escalante, Pantano and Kolb roads. The project, which should be complete in January, will benefit both motorists and pedestrians.

Several Back to Basics projects involve the installation of new traffic calming devices. For information on those projects, please call Vince Catalano, Traffic Engineering Manager, at 791-4259.

Watch for Construction on...

LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	END DATE
Arroyo Chico Wash, Alvernon to Rosemont	Drainage Improvements	March 2006
Miracle Mile, Flowing Wells to Oracle	New Sidewalks	Mid-Dec. 2005
Stone, 1st Ave. to 6th Ave.	Streetscape Improvements (medians, sidewalks, streetlights, landscaping)	Begins Jan. 2006
Broadway, Jones to Dodge	New right turn lane on north side of Broadway at Dodge; new sidewalks and streetlights from Dodge to Country Club; new bus pullout west of Dodge	Begins Jan. 2006

During these improvements, business and residential access will be maintained to the extent possible with only short, infrequent closures when necessary. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the work area are asked to please obey all traffic control signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. For more information, visit the TDOT website at www.dot.tucsonaz.gov.

Transportation Goes Downtown

As a regular feature of *Destinations*, we'll be focusing on transportation projects that are complete, underway, or about to begin Downtown.

Pennington Street Garage Provides Plenty of Holiday Parking

Downtown is happenin' throughout the holidays with a number of seasonal events and celebrations – from the Downtown Parade of Lights and Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair to the Las Posadas pageant, Tucson Pastorela, A Southwest Nutcracker and many others. Finding parking won't be a problem this year with the Pennington Street Garage open and operating – right in time for the holidays.



The Pennington Street Garage, which was completed in October, is a solar-powered and fully automated, 24-hour facility.

The 750-space garage is located at the corner of Pennington Street and Scott Avenue, on Downtown's east end. The Fourth Avenue Business District, the Tucson Convention Center, Temple of Music and Art, Tucson Museum of Art and many other destinations are all close, within easy walking distance.

Another plus is the fact that the garage is open 24 hours a day, thanks to a fully automated payment system. You don't even need to bring cash – the system accepts credit and debit cards, in addition to cash and pre-purchased parking passes. Nighttime lighting and round-the-clock security make the garage a safe, convenient option for parking after hours.

For more information about the Pennington Street Garage, please call the City of Tucson's ParkWise office at 791-5071.

Garage Rates

Monday - Friday

6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

0-2 hours..... \$2⁰⁰

2-3 hours..... \$3⁰⁰

3-4 hours..... \$4⁰⁰

4 and over..... \$5⁰⁰

Weekend daily rate
and after 6:00 p.m.

weekdays..... \$2⁰⁰
(flat fee)

Microsurfacing Extends the Life of City Streets

TDOT has started using an innovative technique known as microsurfacing to improve some of our City streets. It involves applying a thin layer of asphalt mixture on top of existing pavement, which repairs minor damage and acts as preventive maintenance to extend the life of our streets and roads. Microsurfacing offers a number of benefits:

- Creates a skid-resistant surface
- Reduces the amount of water that enters layers of pavement
- Does not require rolling or compacting
- Can be driven on less than an hour after application
- Does not add significant thickness to existing asphalt
- Is highly cost-effective

Recent Microsurfacing Projects:

- Alvernon – Fort Lowell to Speedway
- Valencia – Alvernon to 12th Avenue
- Pantano – Speedway to Wrightstown
- Mountain – Speedway to Grant
- Fifth Street – Alvernon to Craycroft
- Golf Links – Kolb to Pantano
- Craycroft - Speedway to Golf Links
- Silverbell - St. Mary's to Grant

Questions? More Information?

If you have a question about Tucson's transportation or if you would like to be added to the *Destinations* mailing list, call 791-4371 or email Michael.Graham@tucsonaz.gov.

Word on the Street

By Jim Glock, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation

Stay Connected with *Downtown in Progress*

As Río Nuevo heats up, a number of major construction projects are about to get underway Downtown. Many of them will take place at the same time, making good communication essential for maintaining easy, convenient access to Downtown's attractions and businesses. For that reason, TDOT, Río Nuevo and the Tucson Downtown Alliance recently launched *Downtown in Progress*, a comprehensive

DOWNTOWN IN PROGRESS

construction notification program that will keep citizens informed of

potential construction impacts while we work together to revitalize our City Center. Check out TDOT's website, the new Río Nuevo website, and the *Downtown in Progress* telephone information line for current construction impacts.

www.dot.tucsonaz.gov

www.RioNuevoTucson.com

Downtown Construction Info Line: 622-9000

Tucson is One Step Closer to a Regional Transportation Plan

The Tucson region is getting very close to having a comprehensive transportation plan that will address some of our travel needs through the next 20 years. The plan, being created by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), has already been



Citizens review the draft RTA plan at a recent public meeting.

through two phases of public outreach and revision. Citizens have been very involved in the process by attending public meetings and engaging in a positive and productive dialogue about Tucson's transportation issues and possible solutions.

The plan contains a number of community-wide projects (including the selection of the modern streetcar as part of the Transit Alternatives Analysis) and is currently being presented to local jurisdictions and revised a final time with their feedback. The entire RTA plan and a half-cent transportation sales tax initiative will likely go before voters in an election next May. For more information about the plan, visit www.rtamobility.com.

Sun Tran Rolls Out New Buses

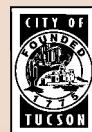
This Fall, Sun Tran rolled out 38 new buses that boast a number of rider-friendly features. They have low floors for easier access, easy-to-read LED destination signs, bicycle racks that hold two bikes, digital video and audio recorder cameras for enhanced safety, roomier interiors, panoramic windows, and an updated exterior design. They also run on bio-diesel, a clean-burning alternative fuel that helps keep Tucson's air clean. With the addition of the new buses, Sun Tran's fleet is now 92 percent alternatively fueled.



One of Sun Tran's 38 new, rider-friendly buses.

Email Your Questions

If you have a question you'd like us to address in *Destinations*, email it to me at Jim.Glock@tucsonaz.gov. Thanks!



Tucson Department
of Transportation

Destinations is produced by the Tucson Department of Transportation Public Information Office and the City of Tucson.

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 791-4371.